

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, TU

SUBJECT:ELEKDAG VISIT TO WASHINGTON: MEETING WITH CLARK
CLIFFORD

1. TURKISH MFA SECGEN ELEKDAG, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR
ESENBEL, CALLED ON CLARK CLIFFORD AUGUST 10. EUR/SE
DIRECTOR EWING WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. ELEKDAG DELIVERED BRIEF CORDIAL PRIVATE LETTER FROM
PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR CLIFFORD'S
EFFORTS TO SECURE CONGRESSIONAL REPEAL OF TURKISH EMBARGO.

3. CLIFFORD SAID HE WOULD SEND REPLY TO LETTER. HE VERY
MUCH APPRECIATED PRIME MINISTER'S THOUGHTFULNESS. PRIMARY
CREDIT FOR FAVORABLE RESULT WAS DUE TO PRESIDENT CARTER WHO
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HAD MADE MANY EFFORTS, INCLUDING SERIES OF WHITE HOUSE BREAK-
FAST MEETINGS WITH SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN. CLIFFORD SAID
HE THOUGHT CONGRESSIONAL RESULT WAS VERY MUCH IN INTEREST
OF TURKEY, THE UNITED STATES AND THE ENTIRE REGION. HE EX-
PRESSED HOPE THAT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WOULD QUICKLY RESOLVE
MINOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS.

4. CLIFFORD EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER FURTHER POSITIVE MOVES WHICH WOULD SHOW THAT THINGS

WERE MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION. AS EXAMPLES, HE MENTIONED POSSIBLE ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATING THAT U.S. DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY WOULD QUICKLY BE REOPENED, ACHIEVING FURTHER PROGRESS IN TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS SUCH AS MAKING PLANS FOR ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN TWO PRIME MINISTERS, CLEAR TURKISH INDICATION OF DESIRE TO RESUME INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, FURTHER TURKISH TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM CYPRUS, ETC. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT CONGRESS WOULD HAVE TO JUDGE SITUATION AGAIN EACH YEAR AS IT CONSIDERED ANNUAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS.

5. ELEKDAG SAID HE HAD INFORMED STATE DEPT THAT GOT WAS READY TO START DISCUSSIONS ON INSTALLATIONS AT EARLY DATE. HE DESCRIBED CURRENT TURKISH-GREEK DIALOGUE AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE THROUGH INSTITUTIONALIZED PROCESS INVOLVING TALKS AT VARIOUS LEVELS. ELEKDAG SAID THAT TURKISH SIDE WOULD CONTINUE POSITIVE CYPRUS EFFORTS AND GENERALLY WANTED TO KEEP ATMOSPHERE IN AREA AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE. CHRISTOPHER

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